

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, June 12. 1711.

IN my Last, I gave an Account of the Accommodation of the Breach between the Heritors of the Parish of *Old Deer* in *Scotland* with the *Presbytery*—It is true, my doing this in Publick may seem an Addition to the mortification of the Persons guilty, that whereas they have agreed and submitted to have it read in all the Parish Churches of that *Presbytery*, I should also cause it to be read all over the Nation; but I am far from doing this as a Mortification to them, being only forc'd to it from the Obstinacy of some People here, who will have me charg'd with forging the Story, and that there was no such

thing as a Rabble upon the Ministers at 20, but that the Ministers came with a Rabble to break through the People, and were only repuls'd in their own Defence.

God forbid, that I should impose upon the Readers of this, any Forgery of what kind soever; nor yet could I be so weak, as to offer a Thing of such Publick Nature, and so easily to be contradicted.

Besides, I am none of those that would widen Breaches in *Scotland* or in *England* either, no Man can charge me with any thing that looks like it; I would to God the People of all Perswasions in this Island would study Peace towards one another, which

which *Peace* I understand to consist in a quiet Subjection to the Laws——I see no manner of reason; why the *Episcopal Dissenters* in *Scotland* should shew themselves so uneasy——I am no Friend to *Persecution*, nor would I plead for it in any Party; but I see no Ground for the Charge on the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland*, the *Episcopal Meetings* in *Scotland*, tho' professedly *Jacobite*, and refusing to comply with all or indeed any *Legal Qualifications*, are perfectly undisturb'd, they have no *Penal Laws* or *Acts of Uniformity*, to enjoin them to comply with the *Presbyterian Church*, how then can *Persecution* be pretended?

I wish from my Soul, there were among the *Episcopal Dissenters* in *Scotland*, a Temper to consider, that the Establishment of the *Kirk* is confirm'd by the *UNION*, and that it cannot be pull'd down but with the *UNION*, nor that *UNION*, but with the *QUEEN*; then they might see who it is they are fighting against, and that it is in vain; mean time, methinks those Gentlemen have liberty enough to make them easie, or at least they may be easie; and yet quiet——And were they perfectly easie and peaceable, they might have from the Church of *Scotland* any reasonable Connivance; I see no Disposition to give them trouble or to persecute them, provided they forbear breaking in upon the *Legal Establishment* of the Church and Peace of the State; and this, as they are merely *Episcopal*, they have no occasion for, neither can it be to their Advantage.

I am of the same mind in Publick Affairs, and I wish with all my Heart we could leave off recriminating and invidious Characters, and joya heartily into every Publick Step which we see for the good of the whole, tho' we may not like the Persons on either Side that act; for my part, I see our Peace only consisting in forbearing these Excursions, and I always saw it; I was ever against *Black-Lists*, or Recording who and who Voted *this way* or *that*; who for Dr. *Sacheverell*, or who against; who for this Sixteen, or who

for *that*; I had no hand in the virulent Publications of your *Atlantic* of any Sort, nor do I think this is the way to heal but to divide us, which is what I abhor.

Let who will manage, Peace is our great Work, while the Constitution-Right is preserv'd, if they break in upon us there, it will be as Criminal to be silent as it can now to be too open.

Nay, I would not publish a List, even of our *OCTOBER CLUB*, though I look upon them to be Men heartily qualify'd to do us all the Mischief in their Power; but I would not be instrumental to put Men into so Publick a Character, as they should be ashamed to repent; if I give a Character of a Man, 'tis always he that has made his own Character so Publick, that any Man may see he never designs to have it conceal'd; that he proclaims War against the Laws, and is too great for Repentment; whose Scandals are protected by his Power, and grown too flagrant to be reform'd: These I think are the just Subject of a Satyr, nor is there any other way left to attack them.

I say this to the Case in Hand; methinks the Divisions in *Scotland*, between the Establish'd *Presbyterians*, and the *Dissenting Episcopal People*, might be brought to a Point; the Law is direct, the *Kirk* erected upon the *unalterable Treaty of the UNION*, stands so firm, they must be divested of common Sense who go about to assault it——The Government is obliged, nay the whole Church of *England* is obliged by the Faith of a Solemn Treaty, to support it——It is impossible the *Episcopal Party* can receive any Legal Countenance, any support in their Attempts upon the Constitution of the Church of *Scotland*, the *UNION* is the Foundation, let them dissolve that, and then something may be.

Why has Her Majesty, in her last Letter to the Assembly, recommended planting Learned Pious and Painful Ministers in the Vacant Churches, are not those Ministers *Presbyterian*, and is not Her Majesty *Episcopal*? Yes, and what then? Though the
QUEEN

QUEEN is of the Church of England, yet the Government of Britain is Presbyterian, as far as it relates to Scotland ; the Establishment is Presbyterian, and the Government is limited by the Establishment, and cannot go from it.

From hence it seems to me preposterous, for the People either to threaten on one Side, or be apprehensive on the other about the restoring the Patronages of the Church — The Episcopal People should have more Sense than to pretend to it, and the other than to apprehend it, for the Thing is Nonsense, 'tis a meer Inconsistency, and can never be ; to restore Patronages would be to restore Episcopacy, for it is one of the Essentials of Presbytery, and must stand as long as the Establishment of the Kirk stands ; if therefore the Episcopal People in Scotland would restore Patronages, I'd tell them only Three Things, which are absolutely necessary to be first done — Which when they are done, the Patronages will follow of Course, and which till they are done, they may as well talk of Drowning the Island of Britain.

The Things are these :

- I. Reverse the UNION.
- II. Dethrone the QUEEN.
- III. Establish the Pretender.
- IV. Restore Episcopacy.

These Things must all be finish'd before they can restore the Patronages of the Church ; I say all, because they are separate things ; the UNION may be broken and Dissolv'd,

yet it does not follow, (tho' I confess it would seem not to be far off) that the Queen must be Dethron'd ; — nay, though both these were done, which God forbid, yet I do not think it would easily follow, that the Pretender should be Established — The People can never be brought to it, unless according to Mr. Fleming's melancholly Suggestion, they should Destroy and Transplant the whole Body of the People of this Island, as the Spaniards did by the Indians of America — And indeed when that is done, I think we need not be very anxious for the Religion of the Island.

The Sum of all is, That the Episcopal Gentlemen in Scotland would think of it a little, that Rabbling, Fighting, Tumults, and Rabble upon the Establish'd Church there, is to their own Disadvantage, the Law is against them in it, their Friends cannot support them in it, the Queen cannot be oblig'd by it, and the Publick Justice will be oblig'd to punish them for it ; all which are manifest Disadvantages to their own Cause, and they would find much more quiet, more Reputation, more Regard, and more Friends, by an easy, calm, Christian Submission to the Government.

The Example of *Old Deer*, as it is pregnant to this purpose, so I suppose it will be an Alarm to some ; those that are wise enough to take the Hint, will certainly find their Interest in it ; those that will not, must take what follows, for the Law will have its Course, the QUEEN will see Justice impartially executed, and the Government will preserve the Peace, let the Breach fall where it will.

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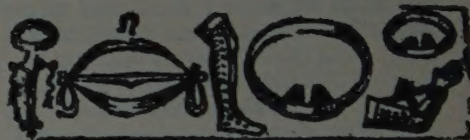
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